

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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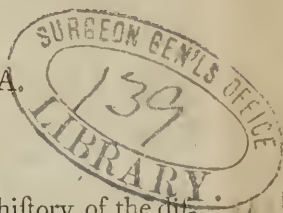
CONSTITUTION

OF THE

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

OF

PHILADELPHIA.



TO collect materials for a general history of the diseases of our country ; to mark those diseases and their modifications accompanying the several seasons of the year, the different situations of places, the various occupations of men, and their modes of life ; to embody evidence respecting particular states and constitutions of the atmosphere, favourable to the propagation of particular diseases ; to enquire into the causes, to examine the nature, ascertain the extent, duration and general effect of such states and constitutions ; to notice the rise and progress, to investigate the causes, and to establish the proper treatment of epidemics ; to devise and recommend effectual measures for obviating the recurrence of these calamities ; to contribute in any other manner to the general promotion of medical science, and to the consequent diminution of human misery—are objects which, at the present period, exhibit a special claim to the attention of the physicians of America.

Impressed by the foregoing considerations, and influenced by a conviction of the numerous advantages resulting from active and well regulated literary institutions, a number of the Physicians of Philadelphia have thought proper to associate themselves under the name and title of the

“ Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia.”

For the more certain attainment of the foregoing objects, and for the promotion of order and uniformity in the practice of medicine, the following constitution has been adopted :—

I. The Academy shall consist of two classes of members, resident and corresponding.

II. Resident members shall consist of physicians of respectability, both in their moral and medical characters, residing within the city of Philadelphia, the Northern Liberties or the district of Southwark.

III. Corresponding members shall consist of such medical characters, not residing within the aforesaid limits, as the resident members may think proper to elect.

IV. The officers of the Academy shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, viz. a senior and a junior, a Secretary, a Librarian, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be annually chosen by ballot, from amongst the resident members at the first stated meeting in the month of January.

V. The President, or in his absence or indisposition, the senior Vice-President, or in the absence or indisposition of both, the junior Vice-President shall be possessed of power to call extraordinary meetings; it shall likewise be their duty, in the order above stated, to call them at the request of five members.

VI. The Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the transactions of the Academy, and shall record them in a book provided for the purpose.

VII. The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies belonging to the Academy, and shall pay them to the order of the President or Vice-Presidents only, which order shall be the voucher of his expenditures.

VIII. It shall be the business of the Librarian to take charge of all books, communications and literary property, of which the Academy may become possessed.

IX. Each member of the Academy shall be furnished with a certificate of his election, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Secretary; and to which shall be affixed, the seal of the Academy—the stile of certificates and of all addresses from the Academy shall be “the Academy of Medicine of Philadelphia.”

X. Seven resident members, the President or either of the Vice-Presidents being one, shall form a quorum for ordinary business; but when neither the President

nor either of the Vice-Presidents attend, nine members shall be requisite to form a board.

XI. Four committees shall be annually chosen from amongst the resident members, at the same meeting when the officers of the Academy are elected, viz. the Committee of Correspondence, the Committee of Meteorology, the Committee of Revision, and the Committee for annual Bills of Mortality within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, and the Northern Liberties.

XII. The Academy have power to alter this Constitution, but any motion for that purpose shall lie over at least two months, and when a vote is taken, the concurrence of three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary.

XIII. In the expenditure of money, the making of laws, the election or punishment of members, or the altering of this constitution, the presence of at least three-fourths of the resident members shall be essential, until the number shall have augmented to twenty-four, after which two-thirds shall be deemed competent to any of the above transactions.

XIV. Each resident member shall on his admission into the Academy subscribe his name to this Constitution, as a testimony of his consent to be governed thereby.

I have examined the preceding instrument of incorporation, and am of opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

JARED INGERSOL, Attorney Gen.

We certify to his excellency the Governor, that we have examined the preceding instrument, and concur in opinion with the Attorney General, that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful.

THOMAS M'KEAN.

EDW. SHIPPEN.

J. YATES.

THOMAS SMITH.

March 28, 1799.

*In the name, and by the authority of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania.*

THOMAS MIFFLIN,

Governor of the said Commonwealth, To MATHEW
IRWIN, Esq. Master of the Rolls in and for the said
Commonwealth, sends greeting :

WHEREAS it has been duly certified to me by
Jared Ingerfoll, Esq. Attorney General of the
said Commonwealth, and by Thomas M'Kean, Esq.
Chief Justice, Edward Shippen, Jasper Yates and
Thomas Smith, Esquires, Associate Justices of the Su-
preme Courts of Pennsylvania, that they have re-
spectively perused and examined the annexed Act or In-
strument for Incorporation, of the Academy of Medicine
of Philadelphia, and that they concur in opinion, that
the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and
contained, are lawful: Now know you, that in pur-
suance of an act of the General Assembly, passed the
sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand
seven hundred and ninety one, entitled " An act to
confer on certain associations of the citizens of this
Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of Corpora-
tion or bodies Politic in Law;" I have transmitted the
said act or instrument of Incorporation unto you, the
said Mathew Irwin, Master of Rolls aforesaid, hereby re-
quiring you to enrol the same at the expence of the ap-
plicants, to the intent that according to the objects, ar-
ticles, and conditions therein set forth and contained,
the parties may become and be a Corporation and body
Politic in Law, and in fact to have continuance by the
name, stile, and title, in the said instrument provided
and declared.

Given under my hand, and the great seal of the
state of Pennsylvania, the third day of April,
one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine,
and of the Commonwealth the twenty-third.

By the Governor,

JAMES TRIMBLE, Deputy Sec'ry.

L A W S

OF THE

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

OF

PHILADELPHIA.



C H A P. I.

Of Meetings.

I. **T**HE stated meetings of the Academy shall be precisely at 5 o'clock, P. M. on the second and fourth Monday of every month.

The order of business shall be as follows :—

I. Provided the necessary number of members be present, the President shall take the chair ten minutes after the appointed time of meeting, and shall declare the Academy constituted.

II. The Secretary shall call the roll, and note the names of absent members.

III. The minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read, and corrected if necessary.

IV. Candidates shall be ballotted for, and when occasion requires, officers shall be elected—New members shall sign the laws.

V. Candidates for admission proposed.

VI. Contributions and fines collected by the Treasurer.

VII. Reports of committees received.

VIII. Communications delivered, read and discussed.

IX. Miscellaneous business transacted.

X. Roll called.

XI. Academy adjourned.

C H A P. II.

I. The election of candidates shall be by ballot, and shall be held only on the first stated meeting in January, April, July and October.

II. For the election of a resident member, it shall be necessary, that he be proposed as a candidate in writing, signed by not less than three members of the Academy, at least four weeks previously to the time of his being ballotted for ; and the concurrence of four-fifths of the members present, shall be essential to his admission.

III. For the admission of a corresponding member, it shall be necessary that he be proposed in writing as a candidate, signed by two members of the Academy, at least two weeks previously to his being ballotted for ; and it shall be requisite that not less than three-fourths of the members present concur in his election.

IV. Corresponding members, who may come to reside within the limits designated in Art. II of the constitution, may at pleasure attend the meetings of the Academy ; but shall take no part in the transactions, nor in any debate without special permission from the President.

C H A P. III.

Of Officers.

I. In the absence of the President, the chair shall devolve on the Senior Vice-president, and on the Junior Vice-president in the absence of both the above named officers; but should the President and both the Vice-presidents be absent, the Academy shall nominate a president pro tempore.

II. The President shall not be entitled to a vote, except in the election of members and of officers; or when a division of voices shall render a casting vote necessary.

III. He shall possess power to grant leave of absence.

IV. The Secretary shall notify, in one of the public papers of this city, the election of resident and corresponding members; and shall receive all communications made to the Academy by persons residing within the limits of the city of Philadelphia, the Northern Liberties and the district of Southwark.

V. The Treasurer shall, annually at the last stated meeting in December or oftner if required, report to the Academy the state of the funds, and render in an accurate account of his receipts and disbursements for the current year. He shall also on his election enter into a bond, with approved security to the President of the Academy in a sum not less than 100 dollars, and not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars as a security for the monies with which he may become entrusted.

C H A P. IV.

Of Committees.

I. The President shall have power to appoint committees, which shall consist of an odd number ; except in the case of the four standing committees, which shall not necessarily consist of an odd number.

II. The committee of correspondence shall consist of five members.

III. The committee of meteorology shall be composed of four members, resident in various parts of the city. It shall be the duty of two of these to keep an exact register of the state of the thermometer, Barometer, and Hygrometer, as it may appear at any hour not later than eight in the morning, at three in the afternoon, and at ten at night. The duty of the other two shall be to note the state of the winds and weather at the same hours also the purity of the atmosphere as shewn by the state of the Eudiometer, once a week, and the quantity of rain which falls as indicated by the Pleuviometer at nine every morning, or oftner. If judged proper this committee shall report Monthly.

IV. The Committee of Revision shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to revise and prepare such communications as may be made to the Academy, and which they may deem proper for the press ; after which they shall report a list of them for its approbation.

V. The Committee for the annual bills of mortality shall, annually, make as accurate a report as possible of the number of deaths, which may occur in the city, northern Liberties and district of Southwark ; as well as of the ages of the deceased.

C H A P. V.

Of fines and Contributions.

I. Each resident member shall contribute, for the use of the Academy, two dollars quarterly.

II. Candidates on admission shall pay ten dollars into the hands of the treasurer for the use of the Academy.

III. Any member who shall fail to be present at roll-call unless confined by sickness, shall incur a fine of one fourth of a dollar, and one half dollar if absent the whole evening, unless permission is granted by the President.

IV. Every member who fails to communicate a paper in his turn, shall be subject to the fine of two dollars.

C H A P. VI.

Of Orations and Communications.

I. An address shall be delivered annually to the Academy at a special meeting to be held for that purpose on the third Monday in December, at noon, on a medical subject, or some subject in science intimately connected with medicine, by a resident member, who shall have twelve months previous notice to prepare for the occasion.

II. Each member shall deliver in writing a communication upon some medical subject, or a scientific one connected with medicine; and this duty shall be per-

formed in the order in which the names are subscribed to the constitution.

Miscellaneous.

I. In matters of order the officiating President shall decide finally ; and when he speaks to a motion he shall vacate the chair, and appoint a member to act in his place.

II. Every motion shall be made by a member standing, and shall be delivered, if required, to the President in writing. No motion shall be received which is not seconded.

III. Absence from the Academy for six months or neglect of duty shall subject the delinquent member to expulsion or to such other censure as three fourths of the Academy shall decree.

IV. Any member who shall divulge the rejection of a candidate, or any of the transactions of the Academy, in which secrecy may be required, shall be subject to a severe censure from the President in the name of the Academy.

V. Any member who enters into conversation during the sitting of the Academy shall be deemed disorderly and shall subject himself to the censure of the President.

VI. Any member failing in propriety of behaviour to a fellow member, in his medical capacity ; or any member who shall in any point be guilty of a breach of morality or ungentlemanly conduct, shall subject himself to such fine or punishment as three fourths of the members present shall deem adequate, after a candid investigation of the affair.

VII. No person who may be known to be possessed of a remedy for the cure of any human malady, and who may refuse to communicate the same to this Academy, when applied to for this purpose, and without the injunction of secrecy, shall be eligible to membership in this institution.

PHILIP SYNG PHYSIC, President.

JOHN C. OTTO, Secretary.

Med. Hist.

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